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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/589,729	08/17/2006	Kazuhiro Ohtsuki	294975US2PCT	9522
22850 7590 08/12/2009 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER MAPA, MICHAEL Y				
ART UNIT 2617		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 08/12/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/589,729

Applicant(s)

OHTSUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Mapa

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/04/09 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 04/14/09 has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 4 states "the function", however there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation. For the purpose of the examination and the rejection provided below, the examiner will interpret "the function" to state as "the search field".

Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Amendment

4. The applicant has amended the following:

Claims: 1, 4, 8 and 10-11 have been amended.

Claims: 5-7 and 9 have not been amended.

Claims: 2-3 have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 4-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 5-7 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maeda et al. (US Patent Publication 2002/0025031 herein after referenced as Maeda).

Regarding claim 1, Maeda discloses "A network connection system for a cellular telephone, the network connection system causing a cellular telephone to access a site

holding predetermined content via a network" (**Paragraphs [0031] & [0051] of Maeda, wherein Maeda discloses the user selecting a site address from his mobile phone and then connecting to and using the site selected**). Maeda discloses "there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters" (**Fig. 3 & Paragraph [0036] of Maeda**). Maeda discloses "said network connection system comprising: a database holding means for holding a database in which secondary data and the site address of a site are associated with each other, the secondary data being obtained by numerical conversion of primary information about said site in accordance with said assignment relationship" (**Fig. 7 & Paragraphs [0045] – [0046] of Maeda**). Maeda discloses "a search means, when receiving from the cellular telephone a search request with a numeric string with an operator entered via said dial keys and specifying a search field, for searching said database in accordance with the search field defined for the operator to retrieve sites associated with the secondary data including said numeric string" (**Fig. 10 & Paragraph [0048] of Maeda, wherein Maeda discloses the user inputting the numeric "72696" and selecting between a simple input mode or a real input mode, therefore a search field defined for the operator**). Maeda discloses "a search result presentation means for presenting the names of the sites retrieved by said search means as a search result to said cellular telephone" (**Fig. 11 & Paragraph [0050] of Maeda**). Maeda discloses "and an address specification means for acquiring from said database the site address of a site selected from the names of the presented sites via

said cellular telephone to make a response indicating the site address as an access request destination of said cellular telephone" (**Paragraph [0051] of Maeda**).

Regarding claim 5, Maeda discloses "The network connection system according to claim 1, wherein said operator is entered via a function key included among the dial keys of the cellular telephone" (**Fig. 3 of Maeda. The examiner maintains that it is commonly known in the art that the representative numeral "#" and its corresponding characters are commonly known to be function keys included among the dial keys of a cellular telephone**).

Regarding claim 6, Maeda discloses "The network connection system according to claim 1, wherein the search result presentation means presents a character string obtained by character conversion of said numeric string in accordance with said assignment relationship and the number of names of sites including the character string to said cellular telephone when the number of sites retrieved by said search means exceeds a predetermined number" (**Fig. 11 & Paragraph [0050] of Maeda**).

Regarding claim 7, Maeda discloses "The network connection system according to claim 1, wherein said cellular telephone includes: a search request means for requesting said search means to make a search with a numeric string specified, when the numeric string is entered on a standby screen and a predetermined dial key is pressed" (**Paragraph [0048] of Maeda, wherein Maeda discloses the user inputting the numeric string and the address is transmitted to the address conversion apparatus, therefore a predetermined dial key is pressed to transmit the numeric string**).

Regarding claim 10, Maeda discloses "A network connection system for a cellular telephone, the network connection system causing a cellular telephone to access a site holding predetermined content via a network" (**Paragraphs [0031] & [0051] of Maeda, wherein Maeda discloses the user selecting a site address from his mobile phone and then connecting to and using the site selected**). Maeda discloses "there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters" (**Fig. 3 & Paragraph [0036] of Maeda**). Maeda discloses "said network connection system comprising: an address conversion means for accepting from the cellular telephone a numeric string with an operator specifying the inclusion of all keywords obtained by numerical conversion of information about a site in accordance with said assignment relationship in accordance with the inclusion of all keywords defined for the operator to convert the numeric string into the site address of a site corresponding to the numeric string, thereby making a response indicating the site address as an access request destination of said cellular telephone" (**Fig. 10 & Paragraphs [0048] – [0051] of Maeda**). Maeda discloses "and a cellular telephone including a conversion request means for requesting said address conversion means to perform an address conversion with the numeric string specified, when the numeric string is directly entered on a standby screen and a predetermined dial key is pressed" (**Paragraph [0048] of Maeda, wherein Maeda discloses the user inputting the numeric string and the address is transmitted to the address**

conversion apparatus, therefore a predetermined dial key is pressed to transmit the numeric string).

Regarding claim 11, Maeda discloses "A cellular telephone capable of connecting to a network" (**Paragraphs [0031] & [0051] of Maeda, wherein Maeda discloses the user selecting a site address from his mobile phone and then connecting to and using the site selected**). Maeda discloses "there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters" (**Fig. 3 & Paragraph [0036] of Maeda**). Maeda discloses "said cellular telephone comprising: an address request means for making a request while specifying the site address of a site corresponding to a numeric string with an operator specifying a search field as a connection destination, when the numeric string is directly entered on a standby screen and a predetermined dial key is pressed, the numeric string being obtained by numerical conversion of information about a site in accordance with said assignment relationship in accordance with the search field defined for the operator" (**Fig. 10 & Paragraphs [0048] – [0051] of Maeda**).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (US Patent Publication 2002/0025031 herein after referenced as Maeda) in view of Sharma et al. (US Patent Publication 2004/0054691 herein after referenced as Sharma).

Regarding claim 4, Maeda discloses "The network connection system according to claim 1, wherein the search field defined for said operator includes the search field of specifying secondary data fully matching said numeric string" (**Paragraphs [0048] - [0050] of Maeda**).

Maeda fails to explicitly recite "wherein the search field defined for said operator includes the search field of specifying which is to be retrieved, secondary data fully matching said numeric string, secondary data partially matching said numeric string, or secondary data prefix-matching said numeric string."

In a related field of endeavor, Sharma discloses "wherein the search field defined for said operator includes the search field of specifying which is to be retrieved, secondary data fully matching said string, secondary data partially matching said string, or secondary data prefix-matching said string" (**Abstract & Paragraph [0006] of Sharma, wherein Sharma discloses the user entering search criteria such as search by location, distance or complete or partial search**).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Maeda to incorporate the teachings of Sharma for the purpose of

making the system more user friendly and versatile by providing the users with more options for searching while not having to refine and re enter search criteria in order to get a progressively selective search **(Paragraph [0006] of Sharma)**.

10. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (US Patent Publication 2002/0025031 herein after referenced as Maeda) in view of Sharma et al. (US Patent Publication 2004/0054691 herein after referenced as Sharma) and further in view of Rabaioli (US Patent Publication 2004/0015498 herein after referenced as Rabaioli).

Regarding claim 8, Maeda discloses "A network connection system for a cellular telephone, the network connection system causing a cellular telephone to access a site holding predetermined content via a network" **(Paragraphs [0031] & [0051] of Maeda, wherein Maeda discloses the user selecting a site address from his mobile phone and then connecting to and using the site selected)**. Maeda discloses "there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters" **(Fig. 3 & Paragraph [0036] of Maeda)**. Maeda discloses "said network connection system comprising: an extraction means for accepting from the cellular telephone a numeric string with an operator obtained by numerical conversion of information about a site in accordance with said assignment relationship to extract site candidates corresponding to the numeric string"

(Fig. 10 -11 & Paragraphs [0048] – [0050] of Maeda). Maeda discloses “a search result presentation means for presenting the names of the site candidates extracted by said extraction means as a search result to said cellular telephone” **(Fig. 11 & Paragraph [0050] of Maeda).** Maeda discloses “and an address specification means for acquiring the site address of a site selected from the names of the presented site candidates via said cellular telephone to make a response indicating the site address as an access request destination of said cellular telephone” **(Paragraph [0051] of Maeda).**

Maeda fails to disclose “specifying a geographical area obtained by numerical conversion of information about a site in accordance with said assignment relationship in accordance with the geographical area defined for the operator to extract site candidates corresponding to the numeric string.”

In a related field of endeavor, Sharma discloses “specifying a geographical area obtained by numerical conversion of information about a site in accordance with said assignment relationship in accordance with the geographical area defined for the operator to extract site candidates corresponding to the numeric string” **(Abstract & Paragraph [0006] of Sharma, wherein Sharma discloses the user using a mobile phone and entering search criteria such as search by location, distance or complete or partial search, therefore specifying a geographical area).**

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Maeda to incorporate the teachings of Sharma for the purpose of making the system more user friendly and versatile by providing the users with more options for searching while not having to refine and re enter search criteria in order to

get a progressively selective search (**Paragraph [0006] of Sharma**).

Maeda in view of Sharma fails to disclose "an operator specifying a geographical area."

In a related field of endeavor, Rabaoli discloses "an operator specifying a search function" (**Paragraph [0006] of Rabaoli**).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Maeda in view of Sharma to incorporate the teachings of Rabaoli for the purpose of improving the system performance by requiring less computing time during the search with reasonable storage costs (**Paragraph [0007] of Rabaoli**).

Regarding claim 9, Maeda in view of Sharma and further in view of Rabaoli discloses "The network connection system according to claim 8, further comprising: a database holding means for holding a database in which information about a site and the site address of said site are associated with each other" (**Fig. 7 & Paragraphs [0045] & [0049] of Maeda**). Maeda in view of Sharma and further in view of Rabaoli discloses "wherein said extraction means searches said database to retrieve a site associated with information including a character string obtained by character conversion of the numeric string accepted from the cellular telephone in accordance with said assignment relationship, and wherein said address specification means acquires the site address of the site selected via said cellular telephone from said database" (**Paragraphs [0049] – [0051] of Maeda**).

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Mapa whose telephone number is (571)270-5540. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY TO THURSDAY 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Corsaro can be reached on (571)272-7876. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Mapa/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/NICK CORSARO/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617

